Review of crimes in railways

†2160. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever reviewed the offences committed in the trains;

(b) if so, the outcomes thereof;

(c) whether Railways are contemplating to provide additional charge to R.P.F. in this regard; and

(d) if so, the comprehensive details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Maintenance of law and order is a State subject and the Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on the States for control of crime over the Railways. However, since the offences committed in the trains, especially the heinous offences, affect the passenger confidence and the train services, the prevailing security scenario is discussed at the coordination meetings between the Railways and the State Government authorities.

(b) The State Government Authorities have been responding by taking steps to control the commission of heinous offences in the trains. The Ministry of Railways has been extending all possible assistance and cooperation in this regard. However, a High Level Committee was constituted in the year 2000 to study the situation, existing arrangements and to suggest ways to improve coordination with the State Governments for better security on the Railways.

(c) High Level Committee recommended that the Railway Protection Force, under the Ministry of Railways, can be given more responsibilities to deal with some minor offences, without getting into the realm of the Constitutional Policing responsibility of the States, to effectively supplement the efforts made by the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Committee observed that providing security and safe guard to the railway passengers, their baggage and passenger area are matters directly related to the security of the railway system. On the recommendations of the High Level Committee, the Railway

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Protection Force Act, 1957 and the Railway Act, 1989 were amended by the Parliament in December 2003 and the amendments came into effect from 1st July, 2004.

(d) The Railway Protection Force has been invested with additional responsibilities for the better security of passengers and passenger area. The minor offences under Chapter XV of the Railways Act, except sabotage related offences under Sections 150, 151 and 152, have been brought under the ambit of the officers authorized by the Central Government for arrest, causing inquiry and other legal procedures, prosecution etc. From 1st July, 2004, the Railway Protection Force has been deployed for escorting of affected passenger carrying trains over the affected Sections in coordination with the State Governments. The Railway Protection Force is providing on an average 1,128 escort parties and provides additional security in 577 stations, deploying an average of 6,217 staff daily. These are in addition to the Government Railway Police personnel deployed on the Stations and in the running trains. The deployment of RPF personnel, to supplement the efforts of Government Railway Police, has enabled Government Railway Police under the State Governments to provide more man power and focus their attention better on the heinous crimes in the trains and railway premises. This arrangement has resulted in aprehension and prosecution of 7,46,150 offenders under the delegated Sections of the Railways Act by the Railway Protection Force. In addition, 105 cases of drugging, 202 cases of luggage theft, 57 cases of illegal weapons, 65 cases of gold chain/mangalsutra snatching, 302 cases of smuggling of ganja/ charas and 274 cases under Indian Penal Code have been detected by the RPF and handed over to GRP concerned.

Cleaning of trains and railway stations

2161. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to keep the trains and railway stations clean;

(b) the steps being taken to see that the human waste is not littered on railway lines and stations;